How do I become a nurse?

The three typical educational paths to registered nursing are:

- A BS degree in nursing (BS or BSN),
- An associate degree in nursing,
- A diploma from an approved nursing program
  
  and

- Pass the NCLEX-RN licensing exam
  (National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses)
Why is it so hard to get into nursing school?

- There is a high demand for nursing education
- There are a limited number of accredited nursing programs
- There is a limited number of instructors
- State boards of nursing require a low student-to-instructor ratio in clinical settings
- Admission requirements are high because nursing programs require strong academics, especially in the sciences
The Nursing program at USM

Degrees offered:

- Bachelor’s (BS) degree in Nursing
- Masters (MS) degree in Nursing:
  - Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (across the lifespan)
  - Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Doctor of Nursing Science (DNP)
Accredited by the CCNE

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 887-6791
The USM Nursing program is located in Masterton Hall on the Portland campus,
and at Lewiston Auburn College
The Curriculum
The USM Core Curriculum

- College Writing (*minimum grade C*)
- Statistics (*minimum grade C*)
- Creative Expressions, such as art, creative writing, public speaking
- Cultural Interpretation, such as literature, music appreciation, art appreciation, philosophy
- Electives as required for 120 credit minimum to graduate
Clinical Prerequisite courses

* College Writing
* Introduction to Psychology
* Introduction to Sociology
* Multicultural Human Development

Minimum grade C in the above courses
Clinical Prerequisite Science Courses

* Anatomy & Physiology I & II and labs

* Chemistry

* Microbiology and lab

* Pathophysiology

* Nutrition

*Minimum grade C in the above courses. Minimum 2.67 average in these sciences
These courses may be taken before acceptance to the Nursing program:

* NUR 100 or 200: Introduction to Nursing
* CON 356: Concepts in Community Health
* CON 321: Health Related Research
* NUR 302: Pharmacology* will time out if taken too soon

Minimum grade C in all required CON and prerequisite courses.
Minimum grade C+ in all required NUR Courses
Health Requirements for Lab and Clinical Courses

- Criminal background check
- Hepatitis B immunization
- Health Insurance
- CPR for Health Care Provider from the American Heart Association
- Titers for immunity to Measles, Mumps, rubella, and chicken pox
- Two TB tests
- Tetanus Diptheria Pertussis shot within 10 years
- Seasonal Flu Shot
First semester, Junior year

- Introduction to Nursing
- Health Assessment
- Health Assessment lab
- Nursing Arts and Science
  Fundamentals Lab
- Pharmacology
Clinical Sites

- Central Maine Medical Center
- Maine Medical Center/Barbara Bush Children’s Center
- Mercy Hospital
- Mid Coast Hospital
- Southern Maine Medical Center
- Spring Harbor Hospital
- St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center
Upper Level Nursing Courses

- Adult/Older Adult Nursing & Clinical
- Mental Health Nursing & Clinical
- Community Nursing Partnership I
- Concepts in Community Health
Community Partnerships

"Strengthening Maine's Future Through Partnerships in Education"
Community Partnerships

Bayside Community

Casco Bay Community Partnership

Dominican Republic (International Nursing Partnership)

Greater Portland Older Adult Partnership

Healthy Aging/Elder Life Program

Lewiston Community Partnership

Ocean Avenue Elementary School

Sagamore Health Clinic
The Dominican Republic Partnership

Students may apply for a two-week experience assisting in a rural clinic in the Dominican Republic.
Upper Level Nursing Courses

- Child Health Nursing & Clinical
- Reproductive Health Nursing & Clinical
- Community Nursing Partnership II
- NUR 332 Nursing Care of the Older Adult in the Community
- CON 321 Health Related Research

Total:
Upper Level Nursing Courses

- Mgmt. of the Critically Ill Adult/Older Adult & Clinical
- Advanced Nursing Skills Lab
Upper Level Nursing Courses

* NUR 424 Clinically Applied Genetics

* NUR 470 Leadership, Management, and Ethics

* Practicum
  This course is offered during the last 7 weeks before graduation. It is comprised of a required weekly seminar and a clinical experience of approximately 22 hours per week. Students may request placement in Maine or New Hampshire facilities.
Minimum 2.75 gpa to graduate
Minimum 120 credits to graduate

Traditional undergraduate Nursing students may graduate in either May or December
National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN)

This nationwide computerized test was developed and is regulated by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Visit the state board of nursing website in the state to which you plan to apply for your first license for more information about licensure requirements.
Admission Information
Minimum requirements to be considered for admission to the USM Nursing Program

- **Math Readiness and a college writing course**
- **Combined GPA 3.0** or higher in all prior college work
- **Minimum nursing science GPA 2.67 in the sciences completed**
  - A&P I & II and labs
  - Chemistry
  - Microbiology and lab
  - Pathophysiology
  - Nutrition
Selection is based on:

* GPA
* Number of prerequisites completed with a B or better
* Essay
* Resume
* Available space in the program

* Students are accepted to a cohort that will begin nursing labs in either fall or spring (fall only at LAC)
Application process for USM students transferring to Nursing from another major

- Deadline January 15 each year for fall admission
- Supplemental application (no fee)
- May apply to LAC and/or Portland Campuses
- Essay
- Resume
- Submit directly to the School of Nursing
Application process for students transferring from another college or university

* Deadline January 15 for fall admission
* USM application as Transfer Student, $40 fee
* Transcripts from all prior institutions
* Supplemental Application
* May apply to LAC and/or Portland Campuses
* Essay
* Resume
* Send to UMS Central Processing in Bangor
Letters of decision are sent in early April

Acceptance letters include clinical cohort placement and projected graduation date based on coursework listed on the Supplemental application
Accepted Student Information
USM students accepted to Nursing will receive a letter from the School of Nursing, which will include acceptance and clinical cohort information and a change of major form to be completed and returned.

Orientation/Registration with Nursing advisors is held in late April.
Orientation/Registration for non-USM students

- Students new to USM who are transferring to Nursing will be notified by the Admissions Department
- A $100 deposit is required to hold a space in the program
- Orientation/Registration with Nursing Advisors is held in the summer in conjunction with USM New Student Orientation
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Ideally located in the southern end of the beautiful state of Maine, the University of Southern Maine (USM) School of Nursing boasts excellent faculty and programs, with unique and rich community partnerships. The School's faculty are committed to providing exemplary educational programs, scholarship, and community and professional service which is responsive to the needs of the citizens of Maine and in the global community. The baccalaureate and master's programs at USM are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 887-6791. Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

More »
Registered nurses can obtain advanced degrees (masters and/or doctorate) to become:

- Nurse practitioners
- Clinical nurse specialists
- Nurse anesthetists
- Nurse midwives
- Nurse educators
Thank you for your interest in the USM Nursing program!
School of Nursing Website: usm.maine.edu/nursing

USM Admissions: 207-790-5670 admitusm@maine.edu

USM financial aid: usm.maine.edu/fin

Transfer Affairs office: transferusm@maine.edu